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Director

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May 29, 2007

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

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From: Patricia S. Ploehn, Director *DPP*

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006 BOARD ITEM # 18: SKID ROW ASSESSMENT TEAM

On September 26, 2006, your Board discussed recommended expenditures for the Housing and Homeless Program Funds. During the discussion, Supervisor Yaroslavsky instructed the Department of Children and Family Services (the Department) to submit a report every 60 days to ensure that the activities of the Skid Row Assessment Team (SRAT) are within the law (i.e., as it applies to child protective services) and the team is not detaining children inappropriately, and to use numbers and percentages to summarize the services. This is the third of the recurring 60-day reports.

The following table shows the number of referrals and detentions from the Skid Row area for the months of December 2006 through January 2007.

Month	Total Referrals*	SRAT Referrals (Sub-Total)	Total Children *	Referrals made on existing case	Referrals resulting in new case	Total children detained	% of County Detentions for this month **
Feb. '07	10	6	16	2	1	2	.26%
March '07	12	8	25	0	1	0	0

*Please note that the number of referrals is the number of families. The number of children is the total count of children within those families for which referrals were made.

**Percentage is an estimate and may change slightly in the next couple of months as information is finalized on CWS/CMS.

In order to keep the Board apprised of the numbers of new families encountered by the SRAT on Skid Row since the inception of the project, the following table is submitted. It provides data on the new families that have been encountered by the SRAT from January 18, 2005, through March 29, 2007.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Location	January'05 to September '06	Oct '06	Nov. '06	Dec. '06	Jan '07	Feb. '07	Mar. '07	January 2005 through March 2007 Total
Midnight Mission	331	10	23	19	5	11	12	411
SRAT	450	0	0	4	0	0	5	459
URM	124	7	5	9	7	3	13	168
Weingart	182	1	0	0	0	0	0	183
	1087	18	28	32	12	14	30	1221

In addition to the above new families encountered by the SRAT, during the months of February and March, the SRAT provided approximately 384 services to the families they encountered. These services are documented in the Permanent Housing Assistance Services database. The services to the families may include the following: referring the family for counseling to address domestic violence, substance abuse, or mental health issues; linking the family to a resource such as a food or clothing bank; referring the family to a housing locator through the Weingart Center or Beyond Shelter; providing a support service; completing an assessment; creating an individualized housing and services plan; referring the family for and/or completing an assessment to address mental health, physical health, or child abuse issues.

On December 18, 2006, the contract between the County and Beyond Shelter was signed and on January 18, 2007, they began accepting referrals from the SRAT. The following table reflects some of the activities on the referrals that were generated from the SRAT to Beyond Shelter for the months of February and March 2007.

Total Referrals For Emergency Housing	Families placed in hotels	Families Placed in shelters	Families placed in Master Leased Apartments	Families declining emergency Shelter	Families with special needs	Intensity of Service Needs-Families with special needs			
						High	Moderate	Low	Pending/ In the assessment process
87	59	24	4	4	13	6	3	4	0

Please note that the number of families determined to have special needs may change as the assessment between Beyond Shelter and the family evolves. As well, the Intensity of Service Needs may change as new information is factored into the assessment of the family.

The last phase of implementing the Beyond Shelter contract included expanding procedures and protocols for staff to access emergency housing after normal business hours. At this time, the protocol for referring families for emergency housing through a Hotel Voucher Program run by Beyond Shelter is now in place.

Finally, in order to progressively inform your Board of the activities of the SRAT, we proposed in December 2006 to prepare a monthly report to your designated Deputies for the previous month's activities. As agreed, we have submitted the reports covering the months of

December 2006 through April 2007. Each report included a Monthly Report on Skid Row Outreach Strategies, the Homeless Questionnaire Summary, and three case summaries for families assessed by the team. The continued feedback from your Deputies regarding these reports and summaries indicates that they successfully demonstrate the impact of the team on families on Skid Row.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Armand Montiel at montia@dcfs.lacounty.gov, or (213) 351-5530.

PSP:SK
TR:vm

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel